

Renovation Work Begins on Historic Davis House

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Pictured at the Davis House are (l. to r.) Coram Civic Association President Erma Gluck, Councilwoman Jane Bonner and Brookhaven Town Parks Commissioner Edward Morris.

CORAM, NY Brookhaven Town Councilwoman Jane Bonner announced that work has begun on the restoration of the historic Davis house in Coram - which served as the seat of Brookhaven Town government for nearly a century, beginning in the 1790s.

"For nearly a decade this historic treasure of our Town history was allowed to decay because of neglect. After two years of fighting for funding to restore this former seat of Town government in Coram, I am proud to announce that restoration to the exterior of this structure is finally taking place," said Councilwoman Bonner.

For over 250 years - from the time the house was built in the 1750s into the twenty-first century, the house was owned by direct male descendents of Foulk Davis who came to Southampton, Long Island in 1642. According to local historian Davis Erhardt, The original owner of the house was probably Elijah Davis (1727-1802) who kept a tavern-inn. He was succeeded by his son, Goldsmith (1756-1825) who was, it is said, hung upside down in a well during the Revolution by the British for refusing to divulge military information. The inn was a Temperance House in the mid 1800's. By 1890 all commercial use ceased and it became solely a private residence.

Councilwoman Bonner has worked aggressively with the Parks Department to have the restoration begin, seeking funding from numerous sources over the past two years and ensuring that capital funds were available. Councilwoman Bonner sponsored resolution 2009-752 authorizing the second phase of a multi-phase project, where work began this week. This phase of the restoration includes roof replacement; exterior restoration; masonry work; engineering services associated with the completion of the interior structural timber restoration; reconstruction of a new timber framed front porch, and completion of the exterior façade.

Division of Public Information * Office of the Town Council

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